In The Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for determining a milk yield for a group of dairy animals, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting a subgroup of animals from the group of dairy animals;

milking the subgroup of animals with milking devices to obtain a milk yield for the subgroup of animals;

storing the milk yield for the subgroup of animals in a control device;

~~determining a subgroup milk yield for the subgroup of animals;~~ and

~~calculating~~ operating the control device to calculate a milk yield for the group of dairy animals using the subgroup milk yield as a factor.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of ~~calculating~~ operating the control device to calculate a milk yield for the group of dairy animals is derived from ~~the~~ an actual quantity of milk yield extracted from the subgroup of animals.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the steps of:

determining a milk yield of an individual animal from the subgroup of animals; and

~~calculating~~ operating the control device to calculate a milk yield for the group of dairy animals using the individual animal's milk yield as a factor.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, and further comprising the step of:

identifying an animal of the subgroup that is representative of the subgroup.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 3, and further comprising the step of:

storing individual animal data to be used as factors in calculating

milk yield for the subgroup in the control device.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein ~~the~~ individual animal data are used as a factor in determining the milk yield for the group of dairy animals.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the step of:

deriving a measure for accumulated lactation milk yield for at least one animal of the subgroup of animals to be used in calculating a milk

yield for the subgroup of dairy animals.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the step of:

deriving a measure for a milk yield from a plurality of milkings for at least one animal of the subgroup of animals.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the steps of:

calculating the length of time between milkings; and

using the length of time between milkings as a factor in determining a milk yield for the subgroup of dairy animals.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the steps of:

comparing a milk yield prognoses with the milk yield determined for the subgroup of animals; and

using the comparison as a factor in calculating a milk yield for the group of dairy animals.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of milking the subgroup of animals comprises the step of:

milking the subgroup of animals with ~~is milked by~~ milking ~~machines~~ devices that number from between about 1 % and about 75 %, of the total number of milking ~~units~~ devices used to milk the group.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of selecting a subgroup of animals comprises the step of:

selecting dairy animals randomly from the group.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of selecting a subgroup of animals comprises the step of:

selecting specific animals known to be representative of the subgroup of dairy animals.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the steps of:

selecting a second subgroup of animals that does not include any dairy animals from the subgroup of dairy animals;

~~determining~~ milking the second subgroup of animals with milking devices to determine a milk yield[[s]] during a second milking session for the second subgroup which were not determined during a first milking session; and

~~calculating~~ operating the control device to calculate a milk yield for the group of animals using the milk yields from the second milking session.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of selecting a subgroup of dairy animals, comprises the step of:

selecting animals for the subgroup based on each animal's milk yields over time.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the steps of:

comparing the actual milk yield of the subgroup with a milk yield prognoses result of said comparison; and

initiating at least one dairy process as a result of said comparison.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~subgroup is milked by~~ step of milking the second subgroup of animals with milking devices comprises the step of:

milking the second subgroup with milking ~~machines~~ devices that number from between about 2% and about 50 % of the total number of milking ~~machines~~ devices used to milk the dairy animals in the group.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~subgroup is milked by~~ step of milking the subgroup of animals with milking devices comprises the step of:

milking the subgroup of animals with milking ~~machines~~ devices that number from between about 3 % and about 20 % of the total number of milking ~~machines~~ devices used to milk the dairy animals in the group.

23. (Withdrawn) A device for determining a total milk yield for a group of dairy animals, the device comprising:

a milk meter for measuring milk yield from only a subgroup of cows; and

a calculating device for using the measured milk yield from only the subgroup of dairy animals to arrive at a total milk yield for the group of dairy animals.

24. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 23, and further comprising:

a dairy animal selector; and

a controller in communication with the selector.

25. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 23, and further comprising:

a dairy animal selector; and

a controller in electronic communication with the selector.

26. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 23, and further comprising:

an animal identification device; and

a selector in communication with the identification device to select dairy animals to be included in the subgroup.